

A5 The signal processor 4 operates to select and extract a desired region of the image including the face region, as will be described in more detail below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 10, 17, 20, 25, 28, and 29 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18, 19, 21-24, 26, and 27 as shown in clean form

below.²

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1. (Amended) A method of processing a video image that includes an object of interest, comprising:
 - capturing a sequence of images having a first resolution, in which the object of interest occupies a fraction of plural images of the sequence of captured images;
 - tracking the object of interest by selecting and extracting a region of each of the plural images that includes the object of interest; and
 - coding the extracted region of each of the plural images, wherein the extracted region of each of the plural images has a second resolution, smaller than the first resolution, corresponding to a display format of a receiving device.
 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - stabilizing the object of interest within the extracted region.
 3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the extracted region is selected so that the object of interest is centered within the extracted region.
 4. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising:
 - transmitting the coded extracted region; and
 - decoding and displaying the coded extracted region.

²A marked-up copy of the amended portion of the claims is attached hereto.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the extracted region is displayed in a format comprising fewer pixels than a format of each of the plural images of the sequence of captured images.

6. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the object of interest occupies less than a predetermined fraction of each image.

7. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the object of interest occupies a small fraction of each image.

8. (Amended) A method of processing a video image captured by a camera, the video image including an object of interest, comprising:

selecting a region of an image including the object of interest, the selected region being of a predetermined size; and

coding the selected region, wherein the selected region corresponds to a display format having fewer pixels than the format of an image captured by the camera.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the selected region is coded and a non-selected region of the captured image is discarded.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the captured image is in Common Interchange Format (CIF) format and the selected region is in Quarter Common Interchange Format (QCIF).

12. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 8, 9, or 11, wherein the selected region is scaled to compensate for movements of the object of interest backwards and forwards relative to the camera.

13. (Amended) The method of any of claims 8, 9, or 11, wherein the object of interest is stabilized within the selected region.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected region is selected such that the object of interest is centered in the selected region.

15. (Amended) A method of processing a captured video image including an object of interest, comprising:

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selecting a region of the captured image including the object of interest in which the selected region is greater than an area occupied by the object of interest by a predetermined degree and the selected region has a first size;

scaling the selected region to a predetermined second size; and

coding the selected region.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the selected region.

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18. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined second size corresponds to a known display format.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the captured image is in CIF format and the selected region is scaled to QCIF format.

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21. (Amended) A method of operating a video camera, comprising:

arranging the video camera so that an object of interest occupies a fraction of an area of a captured image having a first resolution;

tracking movement of the object of interest within the captured image;

selecting and extracting a region of interest around the object of interest; and

displaying only the extracted region of the captured image,

wherein the extracted region has a second resolution, smaller than the first resolution, corresponding to a display format of a receiving device.

22. (Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:

means for extracting a region of plural captured images having a first resolution including an object of interest; and

a coding circuit configured to code the extracted region of each of the plural captured images, wherein the extracted region has a second resolution, smaller than the first resolution, corresponding to a display format of a receiving device.

23. (Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:

means for selecting a region of an image having a first resolution including an object of interest, the selected region having a predetermined size; and

a coding circuit configured to code the selected region in a second resolution, smaller than the first resolution, corresponding to a display format of a receiving device.

24. (Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:

means for selecting a region of an image having a first resolution such that an object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the selected region; and

means for coding said selected region in a second resolution, smaller than the first resolution, corresponding to a display format of a receiving device.

26. (Amended) A video image processing device comprising a camera and the image processing circuit as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 24.

27. (Amended) A mobile phone comprising the image processing circuit as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 24.

(Please add new Claims 30-34 as follows:)

30. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the object of interest occupies less than a predetermined fraction of each image.

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31. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the object of interest occupies less than a predetermined fraction of each image.

32. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the object of interest occupies a small fraction of each image.

33. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the object of interest occupies a small fraction of each image.

34. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the object of interest is stabilized within the selected region

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract on page 20 as shown in clean form below.³

³A marked-up copy of the Abstract is attached hereto.